

Access

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By Carey L. Draeger
Public Information Officer



Joanne Budler, Library of Michigan's new deputy state librarian

Thanks to the Cornhusker State, Michigan has a new deputy state librarian. Joanne M. Budler, the director of network services and NEBASE (the OCLC network for the state of Nebraska) at the Nebraska Library Commission, will begin her new duties as the deputy state librarian of Michigan on August 21, 2000. When she arrives at the Library of Michigan,

it will be the first time in 59 years that women have served as both state librarian and deputy state librarian of Michigan.

"Joanne is a highly qualified and personable individual. I'm delighted she will join the Library of Michigan team," said State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau.

In addition to working with the state librarian, Budler will also manage the newly formed library development division of the Library of Michigan, and will serve as a Library of Michigan liaison to library groups around the state.

Budler grew up in Queens, New York City where, she said, "I was an avid reader and I loved libraries, especially my neighborhood branch library." As an adult deciding on a career, she discovered that she felt at home in the library profession. "I wanted to work with all types of libraries of all sizes." She added, "Librarians are the most cooperative people you'll ever meet."

Budler cares a great deal about the library profession. This concern is one of the reasons she decided to come to Michigan. "While I'm sad to be leaving Nebraska, I see many wonderful possibilities in Michigan." Budler said that she felt part of the state library's mission was to bring libraries together. "When you bring libraries together, that linking makes everyone stronger. I always told my team in Nebraska, 'The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.'"

Budler also said another role of libraries is to "ensure equitable service no matter where our patrons live. Part of that service should include the guarantee that we will deliver quality information to the end user. Our library patrons are more sophisticated than ever before and can receive information whenever they want it. As librarians, we need to make sure our customers get good, quality information."

Budler's background also includes seven years as the legislative reference librarian for Nebraska's Legislative Research Division at the state capitol, and a cataloger and curator of the Heritage Room with the Lincoln City Libraries. She received her bachelor of arts in English and composition from Syracuse University in New York, a master of fine arts from the University of Iowa Writers Workshop and a master of library science also from the University of Iowa.

Budler is married to husband Joe and has three grown daughters.



Notes from the State Librarian

One of the reasons that many of us choose to work in libraries is because of the variety found in our duties and responsibilities. Another, less well-known reason is that many of us are “cutting-edge junkies” who get excited because we’re often at the forefront of new library technologies and services.

I experienced that excitement when I first read about libraries that provide e-books and other virtual materials. It’s an old paradigm with a new twist. I heard George Bishop, the new president of the Michigan Library Consortium, describe how young adults, who scorn information found in traditional library books, will gladly accept that same information if it is offered in an e-book format! It may be a generational thing, but I believe it is also a convenience for the library customer. Electronic books will enable our customers to carry home a number of titles on one reader device; enlarge the print; and read more comfortably, thanks to a lighted background. Pages in an e-book may be turned with a simple touch on the screen or a button, and there’s no need for a bookmark. I brought an e-book and a reader device to the last Library of Michigan Board of Trustees meeting and passed it around the table. The delight and pleasure on the faces of the trustees and other participants who sampled the book was evident.

E-books are convenient for libraries, too. Overdue books may become a thing of the past. The procedure for virtual books will be handled with a computer chip—poof! It’s been two weeks and the book is back at the library. Virtual books don’t take much time to shelve either.

Just as public libraries once offered VCRs along with videos, I predict libraries will circulate reader devices along with the e-books until they become widely owned. Eventually, I’m sure we’ll primarily offer e-book titles.

Who knows what lies on the horizon: libraries sharing a collection of virtual materials? Virtual collections that support distance education? Virtual collections that ease some of our more pressing preservation issues?

Whatever comes to pass, I know this much: it’s a great time to work in libraries, and a great time to be a cutting-edge junkie!

Michigan Teacher Network

By Kate Pittsley, Librarian and Info Architect
Michigan Teacher Network

The Michigan Teacher Network (MTN) is an online clearinghouse of reviewed Internet materials for Michigan educators. MTN (<http://mtn.merit.edu>) is free of charge, and no registration is required to use the site. Public libraries will find MTN useful in many ways:

Both teachers and home schooling parents will find a large collection of reviewed curriculum sites on MTN. The collection may be searched by keyword, grade level, and other criteria. Where appropriate, curriculum sites in MTN have been linked to Michigan Curriculum Framework Content Standards. Teachers or education students in your community will discover that MTN provides quick access to professional development materials, such as education organizations, education journals, and teacher job openings. Users who obtain a citation from the ERIC database on FirstSearch (available through AccessMichigan) may be able to quickly find an online version of the cited periodical through MTN. Parents may locate sites for homework help, reviews of educational software, preschool information, and more on MTN. Youth and Young Adult (YA) librarians will find MTN’s Media Center section, as well as other parts of the site, useful in their work.

Michigan Teacher Network is designed to complement and work well with the Michigan Electronic Library (MEL). MEL is still the best place to send students who are researching for school papers. MTN is a smaller collection designed specifically for use by the adults involved in K-12 education, such as teachers, school administrators, parents, and librarians.

Michigan Teacher Network is a joint effort of Merit Network, Inc., the Calhoun Intermediate School District, and Eastern Michigan University. MTN materials were developed with a grant awarded by the Michigan State Board of Education through the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant Program.



Michigan Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Promote Services

By Maggie Bacon, Supervisor

Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

In March 1999 the Library of Michigan Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH) received an \$18,000 grant from Consumers Energy through the Library of Michigan Foundation. The purpose of the grant was to develop promotional materials that targeted medical professionals.

An eye-catching brochure, entitled "A More Colorful World," explained to the doctors and their staff in simple, concise language the wonderful services available through Michigan Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Ciesa and Associates, an East Lansing, Michigan, graphics design firm, created the brochure and mailing envelope, and worked with SBPH staff and patrons to write the copy. Each packet, mailed to all active members of the Michigan Medical Society during May, contained an application, a brief description of the service and a tabletop poster for display in the doctors' offices. "Doctors and nurses are often the first professionals who see the people that may be eligible for talking book and Braille library service. They can help us get the word out about this terrific service," said Christie Pearson Brandau, Michigan's State Librarian.

The Consumers Energy grant covered printing, assembling, and mailing the finished packets.



May I Introduce You to . . .

Senator Alma Wheeler Smith, who represents the Eighteenth Senatorial District and is a member of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees? Senator Smith's district encompasses most of Washtenaw County and includes the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Smith is the vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the first woman to hold a leadership position on that committee. She also serves on the Higher Education, Community Health, Department of Environmental Quality and Corrections subcommittees. Smith is a member of the Legislative Black Caucus and the Legislative Arts Caucus and is vice chair of the national Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee.

Prior to her election to the Michigan Senate, Smith held two other elected offices. She served as a trustee for the South Lyon School Board (1984-1992) and was a commissioner with the Washtenaw County Board (1992-1994). She worked as the legislative coordinator for state Senator Lana Pollack from 1986 to 1994.

Smith is an active member of the NAACP. She grew up in this organization. During the 1950s and 60s, her parents, Dr. Albert Wheeler and Emma Wheeler, led the Ann Arbor NAACP during its successful campaigns to enact a fair housing ordinance, quality education provisions, fair employment practices and the establishment of the Ann Arbor Human Relations Commission. Her father served as president of the State Conference of NAACP Branches in the 1960s.

Smith was born in Columbia, South Carolina, and moved with her family to Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1943. She graduated from St. Thomas High School (Gabriel Richard) in Ann Arbor in 1959 and received a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of Michigan. A Washtenaw County resident for 56 years, Smith now shares her old farmhouse in Salem Township with three dogs and three cats, the domesticated pet menagerie left behind by her three adult children.

TECH time

by Paul Groll,
Director, Network and Information Systems

Telephone rings.

Dana: Help desk. Dana speaking.

Lynn: Hi, Dana, it's Lynn. Remember me?

Dana: Of course I remember you! How are you?

L: Doing just fine. There's so much to do; it's great to be so busy.

D: Sounds like the new job agrees with you.

L: It's great to see how other offices do things. I hate to sound selfish, but that's why I'm calling.

D: Because your office does great things?

L: Well, they want to, but there isn't much tech support, and I just got a brand new computer. I've never had anything but hand-me-downs before, so this is wonderful. It seems so fast and powerful.

D: This is a problem?

L: The problem is that there is so much I don't know how to do!

D: Such as?

L: Well, like installing and configuring some of the software I'm used to.

D: Give me an example.

L: My Lake Michigan Sunsets screensaver, my Pictured Rocks wallpaper files, my Grand-Rapids-Grand-Prix animated car cursors—you know, all the stuff that will make this system feel like my old one.

D: You had all that stuff on your old one?

L: Most of us did. Why?

D: I'm not sure you should count on doing all that at the new place—most offices don't allow that anymore. We certainly do not. You'd better check with your computer support staff.

L: Why would they care about that? They always seem so wrapped up in "network this," "server that," and the "Nasty-Virus-of-the-Week." Why would they care about screensavers or cursors on my desktop?

D: They care a great deal. Modern networks and services are often a constantly changing mish-mash of different technologies, multiple generations of mismatched gear from several different and incompatible vendors that are all bonded together with gallons of blood, sweat, and tears from the computer support staff. Throwing in an untested

screensaver, a badly written cursor program, or a chatty desktop music server is like tossing ugly marbles at an expensive house of cards.

L: Come on! It's all so "high-tech." How could it be that fragile?

D: Lynn, like any other field, there's excellent high-tech, and there's sloppy high-tech. Many of the free downloads on the Internet aren't worth the bit space they consume. Of those that do work, most have nothing at all to do with our work.

Think about this analogy—let's say you spend \$80,000 on a car, and then you're given a coupon for a \$1 oil change. Would you expect the quality to match the rest of the car or be engineered to work perfectly with the rest of the vehicle systems or with any other oil you might buy in the future?

L: No, but we're talking about software.

D: Exactly. Software. If you can name for me any part of a network system that is more complex than the software, I'll eat your hat.

L: But why is so much of it available on the Internet?

D: Two reasons come to mind. First, even though writing excellent software is extremely difficult, it's a great way to earn a living.

Second, writing any software, even shabby software, is fun; modern tools continue to make every part of the task easier. Lots of people do it, even with no formal training or experience. Very little software is built with network safety in mind. Some of those folks are potential programmers we may hire someday, so this is not necessarily a bad thing. However, I don't want any sloppy, untested stuff on my network.

L: (sighs) So, what you're saying is that there is a lot of slipshod software out there, and I shouldn't install it on my expensive hardware.

D: Yes, especially when it isn't your own personal computer. Do you have any idea what it could do to the rest of the system? You could bring all the traffic in the building to a screeching halt, and when the computer breaks down, you can't fix it! You have to call your computer support people, who are already too busy with more productive work than cleaning up poorly written software.

L: But I like my screensaver!

D: Install it at home, where your computer doesn't live on a costly production network, doesn't affect other users, doesn't need an expensive staff for maintenance and repair, and where you own the system. Everybody wins!

L: Dana, you know I hate it when you make so much sense.

D: It's all part of my job. Speaking of which, I'd better say goodbye—I've got another call coming in. Looks from the number like the user who brought in the word processor from home (sighs).

L: Bye, Dana, and thanks!

Author's note: Dana and Lynn are fictional characters working in a fictional setting in the Michigan library community, and do not represent real individuals.

Vendor Fairs and Conference Prove Huge Success for Michigan Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

By Maggie Bacon, Supervisor

Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

"It was one of the best things I've done here," declared Cindy Lou Poquette, director of the Indian River Public Library. Margaret Wolfe, librarian coordinator for the Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), added, "People from all over southeast Michigan came looking for high-tech equipment, to search for agencies and organizations to assist them with their low vision or to find a catalog or two, and the crowd was huge."

By May 12, 2000, eight Michigan libraries for the blind and physically handicapped, two public libraries, more than thirty vendors and a host of patrons all walked away quite satisfied with the effort to bring ideas about using high-tech/low-tech adaptive technology and service agencies together with the people who need them the most.

It all began in Washtenaw County on April 25, 2000. The Washtenaw County LBPH, working closely with the Ann Arbor District Library, attracted the largest audience. Included with the vendors were two displays for the southeastern Michigan LBPH contingency, the Wayne County Regional LBPH, Oakland County LBPH, Macomb County LBPH and the Washtenaw County LBPH. The library burst at the seams with patrons, vendors and service agencies.

On May 9, 2000, the Library of Michigan Regional SBPH hosted Libraries Without Walls 2000, a professional conference for librarians and educators. The event introduced and demonstrated to educators and librarians how adaptive technology meets the information needs of persons with visual or physical impairments via the Internet, online catalogs, and electronic media. Professor Emeritus Norman R. Coombs of Rochester (NY) Institute of Technology gave the keynote address on dis-

tance learning and students with disabilities. Coombs will receive the Francis Joseph Campbell award from the American Library Association at its summer convention in Chicago for his work to make libraries more accessible to people with disabilities. Conference participants went straight from the training area to the vendor area to view and test the products they'd just learned about.

Conference Coordinator Scott Norris said, "Based on the success of both the conference workshops and vendor area, we will continue to plan more of these events each year!"

Libraries Without Walls 2000 concluded at the Indian River Library in Indian River, Michigan on May 11. "We really had no idea whether asking vendors to come that far north would bring us success, but we wanted to try to make this a statewide concept," said Norris. "Transportation in northern Michigan can be an issue for our patrons."

Thanks to the efforts of the Upper Peninsula LBPH, the Northland LBPH and the Grand Traverse LBPH, vendors were able to work with interested patrons. People were lined up to try out the computer equipment, the closed circuit TV, and the glasses (dubbed Jordie after a visually-impaired character in the television series *Star Trek—The Next Generation*).

The success of all three programs has resulted in the development of plans for similar events in 2001! The Library of Michigan SBPH is working with the Kent District LBPH and Muskegon County LBPH to co-host a large event in western Michigan, and with the Mideastern Michigan LBPH and St. Clair County Library Special Technologies Alternative Resources for an affair in mideastern Michigan. Watch for a vendor fair coming soon to a location near you!

Holly Township Library Receives Award

The Holly Township Library received the James C. Dance Award for the Performing Arts at a luncheon held on May 15, 2000. The \$2,000 award is given to two public or academic libraries within the Wayne, Macomb or Oakland Counties area to establish or improve a performing arts book collection or to establish and/or expand a program that advances or celebrates any of the performing arts.

"We'll use the funds to buy performing arts books, journals and videos on such topics as film history," said Library Director Shirley J. Roos. "This is the second award we've received in five years. We used the first award to purchase large print books." She added that the Holly community has a "big dance contingency. There are several hundred dance students in the area."

The award was established to honor the late James Dance, one of the founders of the metro Detroit Book & Author Society and the public relations coordinator for the Detroit Public Library.



AUGUST

- 1 OCLC Union Listing, MLC
AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 2 OCLC Searching Advanced, MLC
- 3 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 4 HTML II: Frames, Forms and Cascading Style Sheets, MLC
- 7 Descriptive Cataloging: Monographs, MLC
- 8 Assigning Library of Congress Subject Headings, MLC
AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 9 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 10 CatME for Windows, MLC
- 14 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 15 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 17 SB 936 Informational Session, LM and MLA
- 18 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 22 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
AccessMichigan: Connecting Schools to Information, MLC
- 23 Mahoney Children's Workshop 2000, Native American Culture, Kalamazoo, LMF
- 25 AccessMichigan: Beyond the Basics, MLC
- 25 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
So You Have to Do Some Cataloging: Now What?, SW MI Coop
- 26 Abrams Genealogy Series: Cemetery Records and Resources, Lansing, LM
- 29 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 4 Labor Day, Library of Michigan closed
- 6 MARC: An Introduction, MLC
- 7 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 8 OCLC ILL Basics, MLC
AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 12 AccessMichigan: Beyond the Basics, MLC
- 14 AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 15 Authorities, MLC
AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 18 Getting the Most Out of Windows 98, MLC
- 22 HTML Boot Camp, MLC
AccessMichigan: New Interfaces and New Databases, MLC
- 25 Legal Resources on the Internet, MLC
- 26 Word 97: Beginning, MLC
- 28 Mahoney Children's Workshop 2000 Series, Saulte Ste. Marie, LMF
- 29 Copyright Law and Libraries, SW MI Coop
Descriptive Cataloging: Monographs, MLC

Computer Bytes

It's time to update your bookmarks! The Library of Michigan has a new web address. It's much easier to remember, too. Simply go to <http://libraryofmichigan.org>. The old address, <http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us>, will still link you to the Library's homepage.

For more information about the Library of Michigan (LM) or Library of Michigan Foundation (LMF), call 517-373-1580, or visit the web site at <http://libraryofmichigan.org>; for more information about the Michigan Library Consortium, call 800-530-9019, ext. 21, or visit the web site at <http://www.mlc.lib.mi.us/cal/index.htm>; for more information about the Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative (SW MI Coop), call 616-657-4698 or email susan@smlc.lib.mi.us; and for more information about the Michigan Library Association (MLA), call 517-694-6615 or visit the web site at <http://www.mla.lib.mi.us>.

The Michigan Library Association (MLA) and the American Library Association (ALA) chose Dave Simmons as one of 100 people nationwide to attend a one-day ALA pre-conference workshop, "Libraries Build Sustainable Communities," on July 8, 2000, in Chicago. MLA agreed to sponsor Simmons by paying for an extra day. In return Simmons will conduct workshops around the state on this topic over the next two years. Participants will learn how libraries and librarians at all levels can use library resources to work toward long-term sustainability and positive community development. They will also receive informational tool kits that contain materials for additional training in their respective states. "Michigan's community leaders are all scratching their heads in trying to figure out ways to sustain their communities," Simmons noted. "The local libraries have an opportunity to help these local leaders identify issues, serve as a resource for solutions, and help those lead self-supporting communities for this generation and those to come." The "train-the-trainer" preconference event is part of a grant funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The two-year program is designed to educate ALA membership and the library-going public about the links between sustainability issues for local communities and for the global community.



On May 21 the Brighton District Library, in Brighton, Michigan, held a Spring Fest to celebrate the dedication of the new Children's Garden and to mark the fourth anniversary of the library building. The garden, which is situated outside the children's area, features theme areas and animal sculptures. Events and entertainment for all age groups took place around the garden on the sunny Sunday afternoon. Activities for children included face painting, seed planting, a bookwalk (patterned after a cakewalk) and clowns. Young adults lined up at the Mehndi (the ancient art of henna body painting) booth for a temporary tattoo. Everyone enjoyed ice cream, cookies and lemonade refreshments. The Friends of the Library passed out helium balloons and sold T-shirts designed by local artist Anita S. Farrar for this event. The unique musical entertainment included the performances of two library staff members: Young Librarian Jennifer Schupska and her Celtic ensemble, The Kindly Ones, played traditional music from Scotland and Ireland. Senior Librarian Aide Derek Engi, played lead guitar for his heavy metal rock band, Mastermind. The Brighton Lamplighters, a barbershop quartet, also performed. A beautiful Maypole graced the lobby inside the library. The Library plans to make the Spring Fest an annual community event.

Around the State



22. Library staff hosted an open house complete with cake, balloons, and well wishers for one of their most devoted patrons. "Jenny visits regularly to check out large print books," said Library Director Marion "Midge" Lusardi. "You'd never imagine that this woman is 100 years old. Of course, reading keeps her young." From left to right are Midge Lusardi, library director; Jenny Stanford at 100 years old; and longtime library employee Dorothy Garvey.

The Chesterfield Township Library helped local resident Jenny Stanford celebrate her one-hundredth birthday at the library on June

The new South Branch Library of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library is scheduled to open later this month, in mid-August. The 7,400-square-foot library has been completely renovated. The branch will focus on providing services, programs and materials for children and families. The new Checkout Wizard will allow library users to quickly checkout their own library materials. Computers throughout the branch will offer free access to the Internet. The library staff will also be available to show people how to use the technology to their best advantage. Even with the high tech approach, the entire branch will have an "at-home" feel. Comfortable, upholstered reading chairs will be available throughout the library as well as traditional study tables. The children's area will be decorated with characters and scenes from the *Wizard of Oz*. An entirely new collection of 27,000 books, videos, CDs and puppets has been ordered that includes bestsellers, do-it-yourself, travel and other popular books. A formal dedication ceremony is planned for late September.

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